

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

OCTOBER 1991 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - WA8MAZ DON DASO (301) 702-2059
VICE PRESIDENT - N3JT JIM TALENS (301) 241-1144
SECRETARY - AA4XU BEN SHAVER (703) 534-4740
TREASURER - N3RR BILL HIDER (301) 424-2707

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. Regular business meetings alternate between College Park, MD and Temple Hills, MD. For directions to the next meeting, see below. Or call any club officer.

PVRC CHARTER MEMBERS: W3GRF, W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX).

Charter Members are not required to pay dues.

VHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 147.00 MHz., Input 146.40 MHz.

UHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 443.15 MHz., Input 448.15 MHz.

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System:

145.51 MHz. Connect to W0YVA
145.57 MHz. Connect to N2FB
145.59 MHz. Connect to W3LPL
145.63 MHz. Connect to K3NA
147.525 MHz. Connect to N4SR

Next Meetings:

Date: 14 October 1991
Place: University of Maryland,
College Park, MD
Time: 1930 Hours EDT

OVER-THE-HILL Division

Date: 9 October 1991
(Contact W3XE for details and to make
reservations at 301-384-7771)

Check with the packet cluster or the repeater for last minute changes, if any.

DIRECTIONS TO COLLEGE PARK MEETING:

Take the Capital Beltway to The U. S. 1 South (College Park) exit. Go south for about two miles and exit U.S. 1 to the right, MD 193, University Blvd. West. Go west to the second traffic light, then turn left on Stadium Drive. At the first stop sign, turn right. You are now travelling through a parking lot. At the next stop sign, on your left, you will see a building with large white pillars and a sign for Parking Lot 1. Park in Lot 1. The building to the left of the one with the large white pillars (as you face the buildings) is the TAWES Building, where the meeting is held in Room 2154. Walk across a small service road, enter a door on the left side of the building, then up two flights of stairs. Room 2154 is on your left.

Many thanks to Tony Faiola, K3WX, for use of his copier for publishing this Newsletter.

Editor: Fred Laun, K3ZO (301) 899-1235

Production and Circulation Manager: Howard Leake, W6AXX (301) 465-7008

Club Historian: Lawrence T. Fadner, W3GN (301) 725-1624

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

October bring us to the "granddaddy of-em-all" contest in terms of world participation -- the CQ World Wide Phone Contest. Several of you have planned efforts, some modest, some large. No effort, however small, on behalf of the PVRC should go unnoticed, so please send in your logs. I wish you all the best of luck.

October brings us to the club elections. To date, only the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and the positions of Club Historian and Editor of the Newsletter have candidates. No one has been willing to take on the office of PVRC President.

I regret I cannot continue, but after three years as a club officer, it is time for someone else, with new ideas and plans, opinions and beliefs, to begin leading the club. I would suggest that perhaps a volunteer might be more willingly found if we planned on rotating the officers of this club on a specific yearly basis.

Please plan to attend the up-coming meeting in College Park and help resolve this dilemma.

Please give some thought to working on the PVRC Contest Cookbook. Check with WB2EKK for chapter assignments.

Most of us have worked Martti Laine, OH2BH, sometime in our contest/DX careers. Indeed, several of us have recently worked Martti in

Albania for an all-time new one.

I was fortunate enough to go on a DXpedition once -- to Revillagigedo. As XF4DX, I gave Martti his last one in 1987, and he's been kind to me ever since. So, it was with a certain fondness that I opened Martti's recent book, Where Do We Go Next?. The 16 chapters take us on an up-close and personal "remembrances of DXpeditions past" through Penguin Island.

Martti's focus has always been on the international flavor of ham radio, and this accounting of his many trips illustrates this facet of our radio in several stories. To Martti, cooperation is the key -- to everything. World peace, operating permits, schedulings, customs, and pile-ups. Reading some of his tales, I'm half convinced he's right.

For some interesting ham radio literary landscape, curl up with Martti's first book.

On a more personal note, the recent cuts in the budget of the State of Maryland have trickled down to include the Department of Radio-TV-Film at UMCP. The program is slated for elimination and my own job future is unclear at this time. Hopefully, the production unit will survive.

CU in College Park, and during the WW! Vy 73 de Don WA8MAZ.

MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Please keep the evening of Wednesday, December 11, open on your calendar. This will be the date this year of the gala PVRC Christmas Dinner. It will be held again this year at the Andrews AFB Officers' Club. Len, W3GRF, has already made the reservations. There will be more details in the next two bulletins.

This is the month which is generally conceded to be the beginning of the fall/winter/spring

contest season. Looming just ahead is the CQ WW Phone Contest. Please enter. If you are not yet computerized, I will do your log for you on K1EA after the contest. Just send me your hen-scratching along with a signed copy of the enclosed CQ WW Summary sheet.

Conditions showed how good they can be at this point in the sunspot cycle during the period 18-24 Sept. Unfortunately magnetic storms have caused some diminution of the conditions

since then. Let's hope things get settled down again by CQ WW time.

What's happening at the Callbook? A recent article in W5YI Report described the move of the Callbook's editorial offices from Illinois to New Jersey after its acquisition by Billboard Publications, which publishes the World Radio-TV Handbook and the well-known show biz chronicle Billboard Magazine as well. None of the experienced staff in Illinois, who maintained important relationships with PTT's around the world, were kept on. The person who Billboard hired to run the Callbook in New Jersey was let go unceremoniously after he had spent several weeks in Illinois learning the operation. My usual Callbook supplier, W6GO/K6HHD List, has decided not to offer the Callbook this year since they have not been able to get firm information out of the publisher. A BBS message on the packet cluster said the 1992 Callbook would be delayed indefinitely in coming out.

Under Billboard, the Callbook had already quietly been making economy moves. The 1989 edition of the Callbook, for example, contained 61,351 Indonesian calls, while the current Callbook contains only 6572. This was accomplished by wiping out the YD's, the Indonesian Novices, who presumably are not allowed to work DX (though I have worked and confirmed a few). I have been forced to hold on to my 1989 Callbook, however, because when YD's upgrade to YC or YB, they keep the same suffix, and the Callbook has not been current on Indonesian upgrades.

The antenna reconditioning at K3ZO is finished, and all antennas are working fine for the moment. Those of you who saw and asked about the DDDR at the Fowlfest will be interested to know it has passed its first test. On Oct. 2 I worked a UC2 on 160 that I could not copy with any other antenna except the DDDR. Later on, however, ZA1A came on 160 and I could not read him well enough to call him on any antenna, though at least I could catch a word now and then on the DDDR. I couldn't even hear him on any other antenna.

However, some fellows were apparently reading him OK on their long beverages.

One by one, the rare countries are falling off people's need lists. With this unprecedented flurry of activity, I have two to go, and one of those, South Sandwich, should be up in March. The IARU has gotten bolder in attacking the problem of countries without amateur radio, as is shown by the Albanian operation. Let's hope it continues until all the world's countries have strong, active amateur radio services.

CQ's Contest Editor John Dorr, K1AR, has asked us to include the attached survey in this Bulletin, so if you have not already done so, please tear it out, answer it, and send it in.

This is a reminder that PVRC dues are on a calendar year basis, so it's time to think about getting your 1992 dues in. Please send a check for \$10 to Treasurer Bill Hider, N3RR.

There is a strong rumor about that Len, W3GRF, has acquired an IBM Computer and K1EA software. Should this rumor be true, it might indicate an inclination toward strong contest participation on Len's part this season. Even without the computer, he was a million-plus points in the ARRL CW.

Walt, W3FG, sent us an updated beam heading chart centered on Washington. You will find it on another page. His introduction to the chart is as follows: "The beam heading chart appearing in this issue is an update of the one printed several years ago. Beam headings are shown for Washington, DC, but should be off by no more than a few degrees for anyone in the PVRC area. The chart shows common prefix, CQ Zone, continent and beam heading. PVRC members wishing a copy of this chart customized to their QTH should send their latitude, longitude, and a section of Rohn tower to: Walt McGugan, W3FG, 1059 Omar Drive, Crownsville MD 21032. An SASE may be substituted for the tower section."

That's about all for this month. Good luck in CQWW! 73 de Fred.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

"In the PVRC, once a member, always a member..."

For those of us who are ARRL members, there is an election for Director of the Atlantic Division coming up. Before marking your ballots, please remember that the current Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, who is running for re-election, is a long-time member of PVRC. Speaking of Hugh, don't you think that the new "voice" of WWV sounds a lot like Hugh?

Page 49 of September QST has an item describing the new job of Rear Admiral Scott Redd, K0DQ. Before he got quite so high up in the Navy hierarchy, Scott used to navigate station W3GRF to world-class scores in the major contests. Congrats, Scott!

Speaking of contests, the results are out for the 1990 CQ WW and the 1991 ARRL DX contests, and the following PVRC'ers placed nationally:

CQ WW PHONE: KZ3H 3rd Place USA, 3.7 MHz.; W3LPL (ops W3LPL, WI2T, ND3A, KC3EK, W3EKT, N3GB, W3IDT, KF3P, K3RA, K3RV, K3SO, NM3U, KA3UBJ, WD4AXM, KN5H, WA8MAZ, N8II, and KD9J) 3rd Place USA, Multi-Multi; K3ZO 6th Place USA, Single Op-All Band. 8P9X, operated by K3ZR, K4FJ and W4NL plus out-of-area member K3KG grabbed second place, World, in the Multi-Single category, while W3HHG and N4RV (plus out-of-area member K3EST) were members of the PJ1B team which set a world record in the Multi-Multi category, and of course got 1st Place World in that division. In addition, K3ZJ/8 won first place in the 8th call area in the Single Operator-All Band category (if you will note, Dave also got 5th place in W3-land in the same contest, not a bad feat considering both were done in the same weekend(!)), and KT4W got a second-place certificate for W4-land on 28 MHz. single band. KE9A/DU3 garnered 1st place, Single Operator-All Bands in the Philippines while AA4U, operating as VU2NBT, got 1st place, 28 MHz. single band, in India.

CQ WW CW: KE3Q, 1st Place USA, 21 MHz single band; K4CG (K7SV, opr.), 4th place USA, 7 MHz. single band; K1ZZI, 6th Place USA, 7 MHz. single band; KZ3H, 5th Place USA, 3.5 MHz. single band; W8LRL, 2nd Place USA, 1.8 MHz. Single Band; K3ZO, 7th Place USA, Single Operator All Band; W3LPL, 6th Place World and 3rd Place USA, Multi-Multi, (ops. W3LPL, WB2EKK, ND3A, W3EKT, WB3FIB, WB3JRU, K3RA, K3SO, KT3Y, WD4AXM, N8II, WA8MAZ, and KD9J). K3NA was 5th Place World in the Single Operator Assisted, All Band category. AA4U, operating VU2NBT, was 1st Place, Single Operator-All Band in India, while KE9A/VS6 got 1st Place, 7 MHz single band in Hong Kong and C6A/N4RP 1st Place Bahamas, Single-Op All Band. W4RX won the 4th Call Area for Single-Operator, All Band.

ARRL DX CW: Operating as N3JT/HK0, our Vice-President Jim took world top honors in this one. Frank, W3LPL, and his gang got a nice sidebar write-up (author WB2EKK?) in the listing of the results in October QST, while scoring 1st place in the USA in the Multi-Operator Unlimited category (ops W3LPL, K3RA, K3RV, KF3P, KT3Y, N3GB, ND3A, WA8MAZ, WB3FSB, N8II, KD9J). Others: K3ZO, 9th place USA, Single Operator/All Band; WB3JRU, 6th Place USA, Single Operator/Assisted; W4BQF, 3rd Place USA, 3.5 MHz. Single Band; KE3Q, 2nd Place USA, 20 meter Single Band; W3UJ, Atlantic Division leader, low power; C6A/N4MO, 10th Place DX, 15 meter Single Band. K3WUW took 1st Place in Delaware and W9LT/4 got the Virginia certificate.

ARRL DX Phone: KE3Q, 5th Place USA, 40 meter Single Band; N4MO, 5th Place, 15 meter Single Band, USA; K3ZJ/8, 4th Place USA, 10 meter Single Band; W3UJ, 10th Place USA, low power; K3WS, 5th Place USA, QRPp; K3ZO, 8th Place USA, Single Operator/All Band; W3LPL (ops W3LPL, K1RZ, WB2EKK, K3RA, K3SO, KC3EK, KF3P, N3GB, W3EKT,

WB3JRU, N8II, WA8MAZ, KD9J) 1st Place USA, Multi-Operator Unlimited; 8P9X (K4FJ & K3KG, ops.) 1st Place, Multi-Single, DX. KM4YY, 1st Place, Roanoke Division, low power; W3HHG/4, 1st Place, Single-Operator/Assisted, 4th District; K1DQV/KP2, 4th Place DX, Multi-Single.

Congratulations, All! We'd like to see every member in this coming contest season's listings. Did I miss anyone? If so, I apologize, and please let me know.

Well it finally happened. WB3JRU (a.k.a. "Dit") became WR3E. I timed it out on the stopwatch setting of my wristwatch and Bernie can get three of his new calls in for every one of the old one in each pileup he gets into. Tail-ending is also now possible. When they ask for "last letter only" in the CW nets Bernie can get his finished before anyone else even gets started.

Our new member Jo Ann, KA3WPD, got a nice write-up in the Prince Georges Sentinel Oct. 3.

Dave, K3ZJ, and Mary are making a move to a bigger place in Great Falls. The lot should allow for multiple towers, the flood plain should help the low band signal, and the golf course next door should accommodate a beverage or two during the snowy months.

Howard, W6AXX, had a good time with the San Diego DX Club gang during his vacation.

Roger, K1DQV, is back to the daily commuting

grind again with a new job in Frederick. At least he is able to go in the opposite direction from the bulk of the traffic.

Eric, K3NA, has been having hard disk problems. Hope they get solved by contest time.

Mike, KO7V, is giving six meters a try.

Lucky Craig, KZ3H, received an 80 meter JT card for Zone 23 through the Bureau! He lacks only Zone 26 on that band to wrap up 5BWAZ.

Congratulations to Aaron, N3FBN, who was the recipient of one of the FAR-coordinated Baltimore Amateur Radio Club college scholarships. Aaron attends American University.

Larry, W3GN, is on a motor trip back to the home environs of Upper Michigan. He hopes to escape that area before getting snowed in for the winter.

We will be sad to see Lynn, W4NL, and Rosie, KA4S, leave the area after Lynn retires about the first of the year. However, we look forward to seeing the big backscatter signal from the antenna farm in Tennessee.

Congratulations to Bill, W4GF, on being named Autocall's "Amateur of the Month." Bill has been writing Autocall's FCC Happenings column for many years.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

by Ben Shaver, AA4XU

MINUTES -- 8 SEPTEMBER 1991 -- (FARFEST)

The PVRC sponsored a table at the annual Gaithersburg Hamfest, this year renamed "FARFEST".

At 11 AM, President WA8MAZ called the meeting to order. He said that the Club will

publish a Contest Cookbook this year for the ARRL DX Contests. Editorial help is especially needed for the Sections dealing with the 15 and 10 Meter bands.

The next meeting will be held on 9 September

at the Church of the Nativity, Temple Hills, MD
at 7:30 PM.

Guests: WR4S WB3ICL K3DH WF3J N3HIH
WD4EBY

Members: WA8MAZ N3AM WB3FSB ND3A
KA1GD N3RR NV3V N4KW W3GN K3SO
N4MM W0YVA W3GNO K7SV K3ZZ

KM4YY W4JVN K3WX W3EKT K4FPF
WB2EKK WB6VGI N3CBJ N3GB W3XE
W4DM K3RV K3SA W3CPB W3ZN
KA3UBJ KA3WAG W3IDT KC3AG K6IR
N3UN KF3P KT4W N0TK K3RT NM3U
WG3J K3WUW KZ3H W4RW K1HTV
W4NL KA4S W3ZZ K1DQV WK3W N3II
WR3E/WB3JRU K3YDX K3TW KE3Q
AA4XU

MINUTES -- 9 SEPTEMBER 1991

The meeting of the Potomac Valley Radio Club
was called to order by President WA8MAZ at
the Church of the Nativity in Temple Hills, MD.

Guests: WR4S* KA3WPD* WI3A*
*Elected member this meeting.

Members: WA3TAI N3RR K3WUW W3LPL
K3SA ND3A N4ZR K3ZO KE3Q AA4XU

Secretary AA4XU read the Minutes which were
accepted as read.

Treasurer N3RR reported that the Treasury has
a balance of 2300 dollars. It is unusual to have
such a balance at this time of year. W6AXX
duplicating the Bulletin on K3WX's xerox
machine has saved the Club substantial printing
costs, and the Club is grateful to W6AXX and
K3WX. The report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

The following Membership Applications
(sponsored by) were brought to the floor by
President WA8MAZ: WR4S (AA4XU), KA3WPD
(K3ZO), WI3A (K3ZO), NH6T (K3ZO), WF3J
(K3ZO). All were accepted and all were
welcomed into the Club.

Elections. President WA8MAZ brought to the
floor the recommendations of absent members'
nominations for Officers and Board of Trustees.
Additional nominations and discussion were
received from the floor. A full slate will be
published in the Bulletin after nominees have
been contacted.

The Members expressed pleasure concerning

the arrangements at the Andrews Officers Club
for the 1990 Holiday Banquet, and suggested
that, if possible, the December 1991 Banquet
be also held at the Officers Club. K3ZO will
contact W3GRF concerning the possibility of
using the Officers Club again this year.

WA8MAZ said that KM4YY has offered to
donate a Plaque for a new PVRC contest award
to encourage immediate participation in the
major contests by new members. The Plaque
would be presented to the member of less than
2 years who scored the highest number of
points in the CQ WW Phone Contest.

K3WUW: Frankford Radio Club is planning to
do a major effort in the Sweepstakes this year;
N3RR suggested that the PVRC challenge FRC
this year, on the basis of points adjusted for
relative Club size in Sweepstakes.

W3LPL: K3NA node has been down because of
computer problems; there are over 200
Members of the PVRC Packet DX Spotting Net
at the present time.

N3RR: W3GNQ has just installed a new 100
foot high tower and is looking for operators.
K3ZO reports that all the antennas at K3ZO
have been completely reconditioned; Fred will
be away for Sweepstakes, and his station will
be available for SS.

The CQ WW RTTY contest at W3LPL will be a
multi-multi effort this year.

ND3A moved that the meeting be adjourned;
seconded, carried.